

**MEDIA RELEASE  
September 11, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information:  
Brian Cole  
Executive Director, Dana Mission Support Team  
Contractor to the Umatilla Army Depot Reuse Authority (UMADRA)  
Phone: (541) 523-0400  
e-mail: [bc@orbisgroup.org](mailto:bc@orbisgroup.org)**

**LARGE RESPONSE TO UMCD WORKSHOP DOUBLES TOURS**

**HERMISTON** – A second tour has been added to the workshop of the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot (UMCD) that will be held Tuesday, September 22, due to a large response from homeless service providers (HSP) and leaders of public benefit conveyances (PBC). Participants will learn about the closing of the base and how to submit a Notice of Interest (NOI).

The tour for homeless service providers departs promptly at 8:15 a.m. from the parking lot near the front gate. A second tour for public agencies departs at 12:15 p.m. The workshop for both groups starts at 10 a.m. Participants will learn about the closure and property disposal process, known land use constraints, as well as the process and schedule for receiving NOIs.

Interested officials wanting to attend must register by calling Kim Swentik, (541) 922-9339 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 17. Security considerations require advanced registration. A tour and workshop will be held Wednesday, October 21 for business and private interests who may be willing to pay the Army fair market value for surplus buildings and property.

## **UMCD Tours**

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Under the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) guidelines, interested parties may submit an NOI that would qualify them for consideration of some of the assets to be vacated when the Army closes the base. The deadline for submitting an NOI is 5 p.m. on November 23, 2009.

The purpose of the tours and workshops is to allow representatives of state and local governments, homeless service providers, non-profit service providers, other public agencies, and private interests to determine if their organizations might be interested in submitting an NOI.

Public organizations and agencies which may have interest include airports, correctional facilities, emergency management response, historic monuments, homeless housing providers, law enforcement, parks, ports, public health facilities, schools, self-help housing and wildlife conservation.

The UMCD is one of six Army installations in the U.S. that stores chemical weapons. The Army works with the state of Oregon, local governments and federal agencies to safeguard the local community and protect the environment while chemical weapons are stored and destroyed. The installation occupies 19,728 acres in Morrow and Umatilla Counties.

To help alleviate the adverse effects of base closure to the local community, BRAC guidelines require the establishment of a local Land Re-Use Authority (LRA). The Umatilla Army Depot Re-Use Authority (UMADRA) is the local LRA responsible for working with the Army to develop a plan for reuse of the base that includes needs of the homeless, economic, and environmental protection considerations.

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**UMCD Tours**

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Federal law requires the needs of the homeless be considered when developing a plan for reuse of Federal land and property. The plan must be approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Army.

The UMADRA is comprised of representatives from Umatilla and Morrow Counties and Ports, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and two ex-officio State representatives.

UMADRA hired the team of Dana Engineering and MSE, Inc., based in the Tri Cities in Washington, to evaluate base properties and buildings and to assist with gathering of information that will help UMADRA develop a plan for base re-use, and to present that plan to HUD and the Army for its approval.

UMADRA is in the process of gathering data from public and private sources, including NOIs. A site redevelopment plan will be prepared. Members of the public will be invited to comment on the plan next spring. Comments and the plan will be submitted to HUD and the Army.

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